Carleton University
College of the Humanities
Religion Program: RELI 3320A
Classical Muslim Thought I
Winter 2011

Instructor Information

Professor Mohammed Rustom
Office Hours: By appointment
Office Location: 2A61 Paterson Hall
E-mail: mrustom@connect.carleton.ca
* I only reply to emails sent to this address

Course Information

Class Meetings: Thursday, 2:35-5:25
Classroom Location: 118 Leeds House
Course Website: Accessible through Carleton WebCT

Course Description

This course offers a survey of the central ideas and schools of Islamic theology and philosophy from the middle of the eighth century to the end of the twelfth century CE. We will begin by situating the early debates in Islamic theology within their wider social and religious contexts, and will then study the works of the main figures of early Islamic philosophy, from al-Kindi to Ibn Rushd. Prerequisite: RELI 2310 or Professor’s permission.

Required Texts

Majid Fakhry, Islamic Philosophy: A Beginner’s Guide
Ibn Tufayl, Ibn Tufayl’s Hayy Ibn Yaqzan, trans. Lenn Goodman
Jon McGinnis and David Reisman (ed.), Classical Arabic Philosophy
al-Ghazali, Deliverance from Error, trans. Montgomery Watt (see course site for file)

Requirements and Due Dates (See Course Site for Details)

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Schedule of Lectures and Readings

January 6th

Free-will and Determinism
The Problem of the Grave Sinner

Readings: Islamic Philosophy, introduction

January 13th

The Nature of God’s Speech
The Ontological Status of Ethics

Readings: Islamic Philosophy, chapter 2

January 20th

The Diffusion of Philosophical Culture
Developing Shi‘i and Sunni Theologies

Readings: Islamic Philosophy, chapter 1 and appendices 1-2
          Classical Arabic Philosophy, introduction

January 27th

The First Muslim Philosopher: al-Kindi

Readings: Islamic Philosophy, chapter 3 (to end of section on al-Kindi)
          Classical Arabic Philosophy, pp. 18-35

February 3rd

Platonism and Ethics: Abu Bakr al-Razi

Readings: Islamic Philosophy, chapter 3 (to end of chapter)
          Classical Arabic Philosophy, pp. 36-45
February 10th

*Islamic Neoplatonism: al-Farabi*

Readings:  
*Islamic Philosophy*, chapter 4 (to end of section on al-Farabi)  
*Classical Arabic Philosophy*, pp. 81-95

February 17th

*The Maturation of Islamic Philosophy: Ibn Sina*

Readings:  
*Islamic Philosophy*, chapter 4 (to end of chapter)  
*Classical Arabic Philosophy*, pp. 175-179, 195-199, 211-219

February 24th

*Reading Week, No Class*

March 3rd

*The Limits of Philosophy and the Quest for Certainty: al-Ghazali*

Readings:  
*Islamic Philosophy*, chapter 5  
*Deliverance from Error*, entire text  
*Classical Arabic Philosophy*, pp. 241-254

March 17th

*Philosophical Narrative: Ibn Tufayl*

Readings:  
*Islamic Philosophy*, chapter 7 (to end of section on Ibn Tufayl)

March 24th

*The Great Commentator on Aristotle: Ibn Rushd*

Readings:  
*Islamic Philosophy*, chapter 7 (to end of chapter)  
*Classical Arabic Philosophy*, pp. 309-330

March 31st

*The Last Phase of Early Islamic Philosophy*
The last date to withdraw from the approval of the Faculty Dean.

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following grading system:

- A+ = 90-100 (12)
- A = 85-89 (11)
- A- = 80-84 (10)
- B+ = 77-79 (9)
- B = 73-76 (8)
- B- = 70-72 (7)
- C+ = 67-69 (6)
- C = 63-66 (5)
- C- = 60-62 (4)
- D+ = 57-59 (3)
- D = 53-56 (2)
- D- = 50-52 (1)
- F Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY
The last date to withdraw from FALL TERM courses is DEC. 6, 2010. The last day to withdraw from FALL/WINTER (Full Term) and WINTER term courses is APRIL 5, 2011.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION
You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term. For more details visit the PMC website: carleton.ca/pmc/accommodations/

PETITIONS TO DEFER
If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a FINAL assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment.

If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please contact the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept. Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept. Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept. Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within 5 working days of the original final exam.

ADDRESS: 
(613) 520-2809
College of the Humanities
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809
Religion Office 520-2100
Registrar’s Office 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125

4th Floor Library

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